GATT negotiations

2248. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recntly held General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations did not yield any result; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the details of the discussions at the 25th November meeting of the GATT which was held in the wake of trade declaration;

(c) whether the United States has decided not to participate in the proposed new round of GATT negotiations unless services were made an integral part of it; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the 90-nation GATT members to the U.S. decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) The recent meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held in Geneva from 25 to 29 November, 1985 was the Annual Session of the GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES (full membership). The Session reviewed the developments in international trade and related GATT activities since the last session held in November, 1984. However, one of the important matters which came up for decision in the meeting related to the commencement of the preparatory process for the new round of multilateral trade negotiations proposed by the developed countries. The Contracting Parties decided to establish a preparatory Committee to determine the objectives, subject matter, modalities for and participation in the multilateral trade negotiations. The Committee is mandated to prepare recommendations by mid-July 1986 for adoption at a Ministerial meeting to be held in September, 1986. A decision was also taken to separately continue the exchange of information and to prepare recommendations for consideration of the GATT Contracting Parties in regard to services sector. These decisions were taken by consensus.

USA has been pressing hard for inclusion of trade in services in the proposed Multilateral Trade Negotiations while some important developing countries including India, Brazil, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Nigeria and Argentina are firmly opposed to it. The question of coverage will be decided in the Ministerial Meeting to be held in September, 1986.

News-items in Impex Times

2249. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the News-items captioned "Concept of expert consortia diluted", "SSI Export Houses Scheme restricted retrospectively" and "Commerce Minister's decision changed by CCI&E restrospectively" which appearde in the Impex Times of the 25th November, 1985:

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what remedial steps are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The change in the Policy has been made with a view to promoting exports especially from Small Scale Industries Sector.

News-item captioned "Exporters sore with AEPC"

2250. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Exporters sore with AEPC" which appeared in the Economic Times of 23rd November, 1985 and the "Soviet Team Walks out of AEPC show"